

Message Text

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12/44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3520

C O N F I D E N T I A L L TEL AVIV 4608

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMMISSION OF TEXT PARA 2,3,4.)

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ELECTION LAW

REF: STATE 171260

1. EMBASSY HAS RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER LEGISLATION IS BEING SOUGHT OR WILL BE SOUGHT TO SHORTEN REQUIRED ONE HUNDRED DAY WAITING PERIOD BETWEEN DATE ON WHICH KNESSET CALLS ELECTION AND DATE ON WHICH ELECTION IS HELD. WE TALKED TO SECRETARY OF KNESSET, MEMBER OF KNESSET'S LAW, CONSTITUTION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE AND SEVERAL OTHERS FAMILIAR WITH CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SCENE. ALL OUR SOURCES INFORM US THAT THERE IS NO SUCH LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION NOR DO THEY ANTICIPATE THAT ONE WILL BE INTRODUCED IN REMAINDER OF 1974.

2. KNESSET SECRETARY LORCH PROVIDED FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION OF CURRENT ELECTION LAW. STIPULATION OF 100 DAY WAITING PERIOD ARISES OUT OF LAW REQUIRING THAT ARMY OFFICERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS WISHING TO BE PLACED IN KNESSET LIST MUST RESIGN THEIR POSITIONS AT LEAST 100 DAYS BEFORE DATE OF ELECTION. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO LORCH, KNESSET IS SOVEREIGN IN FIXING DATE OF ELECTION BY LEGISLATION, AND COULD CALL ELECTION IN LESS THAN 100 DAY PERIOD. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REQUIRES MINIMUM
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45 DAYS TO PREPARE TECHNICAL ELEMENTS OF ELECTION PROCESS

(BALLOT BOXES, ETC.), AND THIS WOULD SEEM TO
BE DE FACTO MINIMUM PERIOD. LEGALITY OF
CALLING ELECTION IN LESS THAN 100 DAYS WOULD BE TESTED ONLY IF
ISRAELI CITIZEN IN CIRCUMSTANCES NOTED ABOVE WERE TO APPEAL TO
SYREME COURT FOR RULING.

3. KIBBUTZ HAMEUCHAD SECRETARY ROSOLIO HAS TOLD US THAT HE
DISCUSSED WITH PRIMIN RABIN, IN MEETING LAST WEEK,
POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATION ON BRITISH MODEL
ENABLING PRIMIN TO DISSOLVE KNESSET AND CALL ELECTION
WITHIN MONTH. RABIN REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT INTRODUCE
SUCH A PROPOSAL BECAUSE, GIVEN NARROW MARGIN OF GOVERNING
COALITION, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD TSS.

4. EMB BELIEVES THAT, AS OF NOW, THERE IS LITTLE
LIKELIHOOD THAT LEGISLATION FOR SHORTENING PERIOD BETWEEN
DISSOLUTION OF KNESSET AND HOLDING OF ELECTION WILL BE INTRODUCED.
RELEVANT KNESSET COMMITTEE IS STILL
DEVOTING ITS ATTENTION TO INITIAL PHASES OF LEGISLATION FOR CHANGE
OF ELECTION SYSTEM FKOM NATIONWIDE LIST TO MIXED REGIONAL
CONSTITUENCY/NATIONAL LISTSYSTEM (TEL AVIV 2013) AND IS
UNLIKELY TO TAKE UP THIS OTHER ISSUE.
KEATING

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